



Lung Cancer Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among men and women in the United States and Houston, accounting for more deaths than colon cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined. According to the Centers for Disease Control, there were 8,758 new lung cancer cases and 5,680 deaths because of lung cancer between 2015 and 2019 in Harris County. The 5-year survival rate for localized lung cancer is approximately 60%, yet only approximately 24% of lung cancers are diagnosed at this stage; and

WHEREAS, Screening for lung cancer for high-risk individuals using low-dose computed tomography can lead to the earlier detection of lung cancer and save lives, reducing the mortality by 20% when compared to screening by chest x-ray in the National Lung Screening Trial and reducing the risk of death at 10 years by 24% in men and 33% in women as demonstrated by another large randomized trial; and

WHEREAS, Funding for lung cancer research trails far behind funding for research of many other cancers, and additional research is needed in early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for lung cancer as well as in lung cancer affecting women and lung cancer health disparities. Lung cancer incidence is decreasing twice as fast in men as it is in women, each year more women die from lung cancer than breast cancer and by 2035, more women will die from lung cancer than men. African Americans have the highest lung cancer incidence and mortality of all races, and disparities in lung cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and mortality are well characterized among African Americans and other racial minorities; and

WHEREAS, Lung cancer in individuals who never smoked is the 7th leading cause of cancer-related death and accounts for 17,000-26,000 deaths in the US every year, 60-70% of individuals diagnosed with lung cancer who never smoked are women, and the proportion of lung cancers diagnosed in people who never smoked is increasing in the US. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among individuals who never smoked and the second leading cause of lung cancer overall; and

WHEREAS, The stigma surrounding lung cancer creates barriers to early diagnosis, treatment, and funding for research, has a detrimental impact on the quality of life of people diagnosed with lung cancer, and hinders awareness of and research into lung cancer risk factors other than smoking. Lung cancer research is leading to breakthroughs in the identification of genetic alterations associated with lung cancer and in the development of lung cancer treatments, including immunotherapies and targeted therapies; and

WHEREAS, Organizations working in Houston such as the American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative and Women's Lung Cancer Forum, are committed to educating about lung cancer and lung cancer screening and working to increase lung cancer screening rates in Houston. The City of Houston commends the American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative for spreading awareness about lung cancer and lung cancer screening and extends best wishes for continued success.

THEREFORE, I, Sylvester Turner, Mayor of the City of Houston, hereby proclaim November 2022, as

Lung Cancer Awareness Month

in Houston, Texas.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of Houston to be affixed this 23rd day of October, 2022.

Sylvester Turner
Mayor of the City of Houston